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CLAIMS:

7. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of [any of] Claim[s] 1 [to 6], and fragments thereof.

14. (amended) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of [any one of] Claim[s] 7 [to 13].

16. (amended) A method for producing the polypeptide of [any one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 6], which comprises the steps of :

(1) culturing a [the] host cell comprising the polypeptide [of Claim 15] under a condition suitable for the expression of the polypeptide; and

(2) recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

17. (amended) An antibody specifically binding to the polypeptide of [any one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 6].

19. (amended) A method for detecting the presence of the nucleic acid of [any one of] Claim[s] 7 [to 13] in a mammal, which comprises the steps of:

(1) extracting total RNA from a sample obtained from the mammal;

(2) amplifying the RNA by reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) to obtain a cDNA sample;

(3) hybridizing the cDNA sample with the nucleic acid comprising the polypeptide [of any one of Claims 7 to 13]; and

(4) detecting the amount of the hybridized sample.

23. (amended) A method for detecting the presence of the polypeptide of [any one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 6] in a mammal, which comprises the steps of contacting [the] an antibody that specifically binds to the polypeptide [of Claim 17 or 18] with protein samples [extracting] extracted from the mammal, and detecting the amount of antibody-antigen binding samples.